Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Around the CNMI

URBAN OUTLET
+RED

Island Snapshots

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed photos of holidays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details of the event, identities of the persons in the photos, the date, and the place(s), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit for caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 233-9207, 233-3448, or 233-8703.

cars

mcdo

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.

SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.

GUAM AND ROTA
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.

PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.

POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.

YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.

KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.

CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)



tribune

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Los Angeles Times



By RUTH L. TIGHE

Letters to the Editor

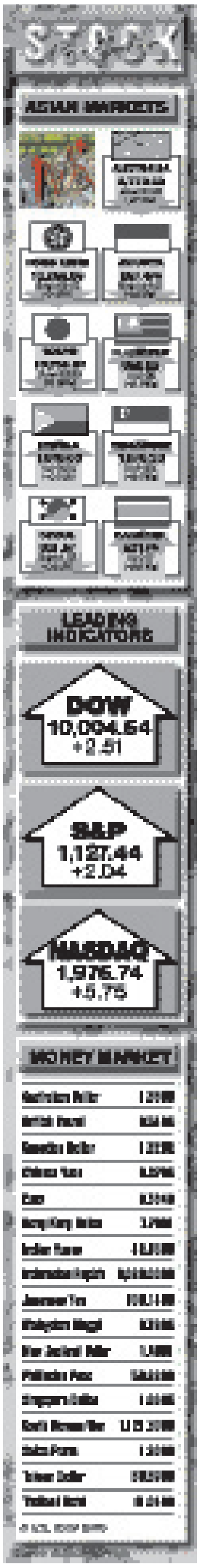
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Our World At War

Business


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+2.51
S&P
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+2.04
NASDAQ
1,976.74
+5.75

Business

Japan economy up 0.1 percent in new quarter

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy expanded a weaker-than-expected 0.1 percent in the July-September quarter, as exports that had driven growth in past quarters barely rose, the government said Friday.

The Cabinet Office said Japan's gross domestic product - or the value of goods and services produced in a nation - grew at an annualized rate of 0.3 percent in the three months ended Sept. 30, from the previous quarter. That marked six straight quarters of growth.

Although the world's second-largest economy has been on a rebound after languishing in a slowdown for more than a decade, some analysts worry the upturn's momentum may be dwindling as overseas demand for Japanese exports slips.

For the April-June quarter, the economy grew at an annual rate of 1.1 percent, and at a far larger 6.3 percent in January-March, the Cabinet Office said.

In the quarter ended Sept. 30, exports grew 0.4 percent, as a demand for autos and machinery failed to grow. Japan has now recorded 11 straight quarters of export gains, but it was the smallest percentage rise in the nearly three-year period.

Consumer spending increased 0.9 percent as people bought plasma TVs and DVD recorders for the Athens Olympics and snatched up air conditioners to stay cool during an unusually hot summer, said Fumikazu Hida of the Cabinet Office.

The Japanese government has said the economy is recovering, partly on strong exports to the United States and the rest of Asia. Consumer spending, which makes up more than half of the Japanese economy, has also picked up in recent months.

The biggest fears that are emerging are the danger of a declining U.S. dollar and surging oil prices, which could crimp U.S. consumption.

A strong yen tends to hurt the economy because it lowers the value of overseas earnings of Japanese exporters.

But most analysts aren't too pessimistic and don't believe the nation is headed into another recession. Over the last decade, Japan's economy shrank in between quarters of weak growth.

Signs of better news have also appeared in the labor market. The unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in September, down from 4.8 percent in August.

Stocks end higher on falling oil prices

NEW YORK (AP)—The Standard & Poor's 500 index reached its highest close since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks Thursday as stocks surged on the Federal Reserve's upbeat assessment of the economy and a sharp drop in oil prices.

Continuing a rally that started before the presidential election, Wall Street enjoyed impressive gains after Wednesday's Fed policy statement, which outlined an improving labor market and little danger of inflation. The Fed raised the benchmark interest rate a quarter percentage point to 2 percent, as was widely expected.

Falling oil prices also spurred buyers. A barrel of light crude was quoted at $47.42, down $1.44, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Despite the solid advance, trading was muted somewhat as the bond markets closed for the Veterans Day holiday. Bonds can have an impact on stock trading, and some analysts questioned whether Thursday's rally would set the stage for further highs.

"You have to take today's action with a grain of salt, what with bonds not trading today, but sure, it's nice to see things moving up," said Bryan Piskorowski, market analyst at Wachovia Securities. "But really, with the jobs report last week and the Fed move, the market's still treading water, and we're going to need another catalyst to break out higher."

The S&P 500 was up 10.57, or 0.91 percent, at 1,173.48, its best showing since Aug. 27, 2001.

Other stock indicators also rose substantially. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 84.36, or 0.81 percent, to 10,469.84, its best closing level since June 23. The Nasdaq composite index gained 26.71, or 1.31 percent, to 2,061.27. The Nasdaq last closed above that level on April 12.

After three days of minimal moves, the major indexes saw a resurgence of the rally first spurred by a relatively smooth presidential election, continuing drops in crude oil futures and a better-than-expected jobs report on Friday.

Pixar grosses $22.4M in 3Q net income

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pixar Animation Studios reported higher third quarter earnings Thursday on home video sales of its five animated films, most notably last year's hit "Finding Nemo."

Pixar, the maker of "Monsters, Inc." and "Toy Story," reported net income of $22.4 million, or 38 cents per share for the quarter ended Oct. 2, compared with $13.2 million, or 23 cents per share in the same period last year.

The results beat the estimates of analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call, who had expected earnings of 24 cents per share.

Revenue rose to $44.5 million, compared with $30.2 million in the same period last year.

Pixar, based in Emeryville, Calif., released its sixth feature film, "The Incredibles," earlier this month. The movie earned $70.3 million in its opening weekend. Results from that film were not included in the third quarter.

"Pixar is now six for six and we are hard at work on 'Cars,' our studio's seventh feature film," Pixar chief executive Steve Jobs said in a statement.

The company said that, based on expected theatrical revenue from "The Incredibles," it expects its full year profit to be in a range from $2.10 per share to $2.20 per share.



AP

In this image released by Pixar Animation Sutdios Dory, lower left, and Marlin, lower right, face an ocean full of perils in their efforts to rescue Nemo, including a close encounter with an unusual group of great white sharks, in this scene from Pixar Animation Studios "Finding Nemo."

Jobs also took a shot at this weekend's main competition, "The Polar Express," a computer animated tale from Warner Bros. Preliminary estimates show the movie earned $2.6 million on Wednesday, its opening day in theaters, compared to about $4.6 million for "The Incredibles," which is in its second week.

"Fortunately, 'The Incredibles' derailed 'The Polar Express' its first day out of the station," Jobs said in a conference call with analysts.

Pixar's next film, "Cars" will be released by The Walt Disney Co. next year. It is the last film under a contract between the two companies. Pixar has been talking to other film distribution companies about a new deal that would have Pixar finance and own its films and pay a studio a set distribution fee.

Now, Disney covers half the financing for each Pixar film and keeps 50 percent of the profits, plus a distribution fee.



AP

Bottles of Mexican Coca-Cola fill a prominent spot on the shelves of the Tarascas Latino Supermarket in Lawrenceville, Ga., Wednesday.

Coca-Cola cuts long-term earnings targets

ATLANTA (AP)—The Coca-Cola Co. warned investors to expect slower earnings and sales growth from the world's biggest soft drink company but said it is beefing up spending on marketing its core brands and on innovation as it tries to catch up with consumer's growing thirst for alternatives to soda pop.

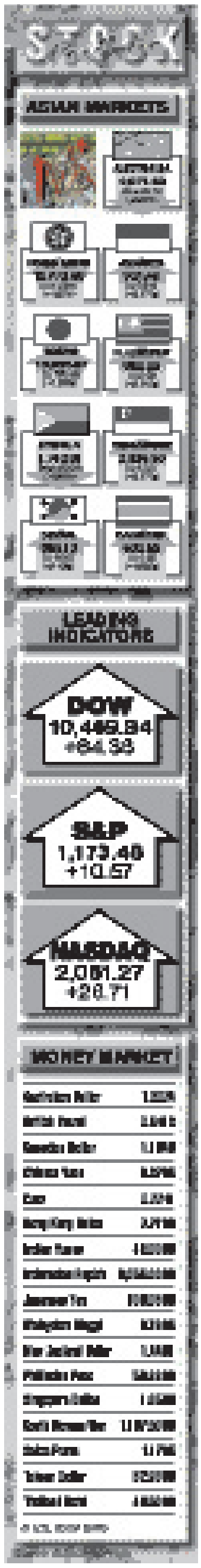
New chairman and chief executive Neville Isdell said Thursday a review showed Coca-Cola has "underperformed since 1997" and faulted the company for being slow to push the water, juice and other non-carbonated drinks consumers want as they become more health-conscious. He said weak results will persist into 2005 in key markets including North America, Germany and the Philippines.

"The emerging consumer trends in health and wellness were missed," Isdell told a conference of analysts and investors gathered in New York and carried over the Internet. "We stopped driving carbonated soft drinks, and we're the world leader."

It was Isdell's first such presentation since the former bottler was named CEO in May to replace the retiring Doug Daft.

The Atlanta-based company said it expects sales volume growth of 3 percent to 4 percent, down from its previous targets of 5 percent to 6 percent.

It also projects operating income growth of 6 percent to 8 percent, compared to 10 percent previously. Coke is projecting earnings per share growth in the high single-digits, which had been 11 percent to 12 percent.



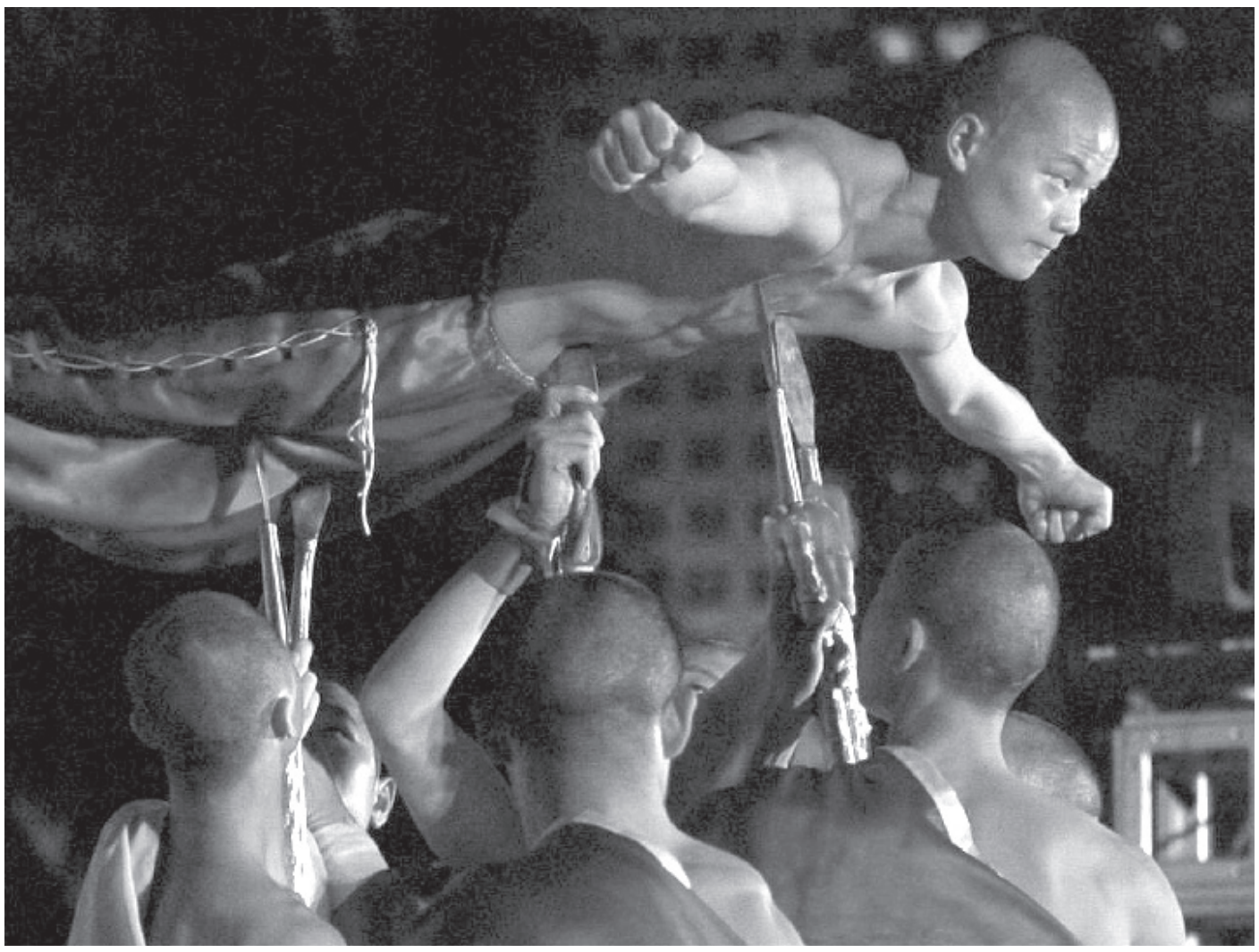
verizon
60th ww2
cmyk

triple j

ACROSS THE NATION

Asia

Train derailment in Philippines kills 10



AP

OUCH!
A Buddhist monk from the Shaolin Monastery is supported on spears at a promotion for the Second Sanshou World Cup in Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong province Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2004. Sanshou is a form of martial arts. The Sanshou World Cup will be held in Guangzhou from Friday to Sunday.

By AARON FAVILA
AP WRITER

PADRE BURGOS, Philippines (AP)—A passenger train derailed and tumbled down a ravine in the northern Philippines early Friday, killing at least 10 people and injuring nearly 120 others, officials said.

Four cars of the Manila-bound train overturned several times as they bounced down the 40-foot ravine near the town of Padre Burgos, about 100 miles southeast of Manila, said police superintendent Leo Kison.

Rescue workers recovered at least 10 bodies, including those of a mother and her 1-year-old baby, said civil defense administrator Elma Aldea.

Another 118 passengers were injured. Air force spokesman Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said those with the most serious injuries were rushed to a provincial hospital in nearby Lucena city. He didn't provide a number or any details of the injuries.

Police said the five-car train was carrying about 400 passengers when it jumped the tracks while rounding a curve about 2:30 a.m.

Chief conductor Melquiades del Pilar told DZRH radio that the last coach detached first, followed by the rest. A passenger, who wasn't further identified, told DZRH that cars flipped over about seven times.

Padre Burgos Mayor Dominador Tolentino quoted survivors as saying the train was running at about 45 miles per hour, more than three times the speed limit along that stretch of track, which was in poor condition. The survivor report couldn't immediately be confirmed with officials.

Radio reports said local residents helped authorities rescue survivors. Some of them had to be hoisted from the ravine with ropes. Everyone had been pulled from the wreckage, Aldea said.

Padre Burgos police chief Roger Fuentes said it was the second derailment in the area in two months. No one was injured in the first accident last month.

"Many portions of the area are not welded down, and are held with metal spikes. Residents hired to remove twisted metal portions of the rails sometimes steal more metal parts," Fuentes said.

Air force spokesman Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said some of the seriously injured passengers were brought to a provincial hospital in nearby Lucena city.

UN downplays S. Korean nuke experiments

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—South Korean nuclear experiments revealed earlier this year produced minute amounts of plutonium and near-weapons grade uranium but there was no evidence linking them to an attempt to make nuclear arms, the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said Thursday.

The report, drawn up by the International Atomic Energy Agency and made available to The Associated Press, followed up on revelations that South Korea sporadically dabbled in uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing from the early 1980s to 2000.

Uranium enriched to weapons grade and plutonium can both be used to make nuclear warheads. Officials acknowledged the experiments earlier this year amid pervasive IAEA queries but insisted they were small-scale and conducted by scientists who never informed the government.

Beyond establishing that those experiments appeared to have produced only small amounts and were restricted to the laboratory, the report also revealed a separate attempt at uranium enrichment that it said had not been previously reported to the agency.

But the report said this attempt—to enrich uranium chemically—resulted in extremely low enrichment, far below the level normally used to make arms.

South Korea scrambled to deny it had ambitions for a nuclear weapons program following the first revelations in August, and the government sought to play down its role in what it said were unauthorized experiments.

The IAEA report - prepared for a Nov. 25 meeting of the agency's board of governors - noted government assertions that the highest-ranking official aware of enrichment experiments between 1993 and 2000 was the head of a nuclear research agency in the city of Daejon and that the activities included only 14 scientists.

But such claims were questioned by diplomats familiar with IAEA investigations. The fact that uranium metal normally used in enrichment was produced nearly two decades before the experiments were carried out four years ago suggests long-range planning, one diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

IAEA board action on the report could set a precedent for Iran, which the United States accuses of trying to develop nuclear weapons.

If the board decides that the South Korean violations need to be reported to the U.N. Security Council, then the U.S. case for similar action against Tehran—with a much more serious record of nuclear transgressions—likely would receive a boost.

Failure by South Korea to disclose the experiments were "a matter of serious concern" because they violated agreements signed with the IAEA and linked to the Nonproliferation Treaty, the report said.

US welcomes speech by Taiwan president

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department is welcoming what it describes as "the positive and constructive points" in a speech on China policy by Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian.

"We believe it lays a foundation for progress and offers some creative ideas for reducing tensions and resuming the cross-Strait dialogue," the department said late Wednesday in response to a media question.

The department urged China and Taiwan to take the opportunity to engage in dialogue aimed at peaceful resolution of differences.

In a brief televised address on Wednesday, Chen invited Chinese leaders to a summit and asked Beijing to work with Taiwan to create a code of conduct to avoid military incidents between the rivals.

"The leaders and governments of both sides should grasp this opportunity and use wisdom to open up a good window of opportunity to create a foundation of peace and happiness for the people," he said.

Chen also urged China to ban the development and use of weapons of mass destruction.

The State Department reaffirmed its commitment to a one China policy and its opposition to any efforts by either side to unilaterally alter the status quo.

UN calls for release of Afghan hostages

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The United Nations appealed Thursday to the Taliban-linked kidnappers of three of its staff in Afghanistan to release them in time for a Muslim festival starting this weekend.

Militants claiming to hold the three foreigners say the Afghan government has agreed to free 26 of their jailed comrades as part of a prisoner exchange.

However, officials have yet to confirm any deal with the kidnappers, who also say they want to free the hostages by Eid, the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, British-Irish Annetta Flanigan, and Shqipe Hebibi of Kosovo were abducted at gunpoint in Kabul on Oct. 28, stirring fear among the capital's 2,000-strong expatriate community that Afghan militants were copying the tactics of insurgents in Iraq.

"These are the longest fourteen days in the lives of Lito, Annetta, Shqipe, their families, their friends and their colleagues," U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said. "We hope that the spirit of peace and understanding shown by all during Eid will be extended" to the hostages.

A Taliban spinoff called Jaish-al Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, initially threatened to kill the trio, who helped organize Afghanistan's landmark Oct. 9 election.

But there are signs that a deal is taking shape. Officials familiar with the negotiations say it could include a prisoner release and a ransom.

The group's leader, Akbar Agha, said on Wednesday that it had "been given signals" that the 26 will be freed and urged a swift exchange.

"We want our colleagues holding the hostages to be free to go home for Eid," he said in a telephone call to The Associated Press.

The three-day Eid holiday starts this weekend.

Afghan state television reported late Wednesday that President Hamid Karzai had decreed the release of prisoners for Eid. But there was no indication the release would cover any inmates identified by the hostage-takers.

Beghjet Pacolli, a businessman from Kosovo who has traveled to Kabul to seek Hebibi's release, told AP he also had assurances that a deal was in the offing.

China: Vanuatu rescinds Taiwan recognition

By AUDRA ANG
AP WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—China claimed victory Thursday in a diplomatic battle with rival Taiwan for relations with Vanuatu, saying the tiny Pacific island nation was withdrawing its recognition of the Taiwanese government in favor of Beijing.

The announcement came amid conflicting statements by Vanuatu officials about whether their government would stick to a Nov. 3 agreement to form relations with Taipei.

Vanuatu's Cabinet "has made the decision to revoke the so-called communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vanuatu and Taiwan," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue.

But Michel Ching-long Lu, a Taiwanese Foreign Ministry spokesman, told reporters that it's Taiwan's understanding that Vanuatu still has official relations with Taipei.

"The prime minister told us that there were opposing voices in his Cabinet and he would continue to talk to them," Lu said. "Since Prime Minister (Serge) Vohor is the head of state and represents his government and people, why don't we wait until he returns home and calls a Cabinet meeting?"

Vanuatu's foreign minister, Barak Sope, had said Thursday its Cabinet had rejected relations with Taiwan. But a spokesman for Vohor said he was sticking with the agreement to recognize Taipei.

Nevertheless, the prime minister was adamant that the government wanted to keep its current diplomatic ties with China. "We cherish the long relationship we have with China," said the spokesman, Kalvau Moli.

China and Taiwan, ruled separately since splitting amid civil war in 1949, compete vigorously for diplomatic partners.

Beijing refuses to have relations with governments that recognize democratic Taiwan. The communist mainland says the island is part of its territory with no right to conduct foreign relations.

Beijing has won most of their battles for formal diplomatic ties, though many countries maintain extensive informal relations with Taiwan, one of the world's biggest trading nations.

Including Vanuatu, Taiwan has formal relations with 27 governments, most of them small, poor nations in Latin America, Africa and the Pacific.

Taiwan had pledged $6 billion to Vanuatu, Moli said Monday. Meanwhile, China gave $2 billion for "restructuring in education" last week, he said.

Vanuatu has about 200,000 people and lies 1,400 miles northeast of Sydney, Australia.

Earthquake in Indonesia leaves 6 dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake rocked parts of eastern Indonesia early Friday, killing six people, injuring 40 and damaging hundreds of buildings, seismologists and officials said.

The magnitude-6 quake struck at 5:26 a.m. and was centered 20 miles off the eastern coast of Alor island, about 1,000 miles east of the capital Jakarta, said seismologist Rahmat Triono in Jakarta.

Six residents were killed and 40 injured in Alor said Fransiscus Salem, a local government official said on Radio El-Shinta.

"We are still feeling many small tremors here," Salem said. "We hope the quake has peaked. But, we are afraid of big aftershocks which can cause more deaths."

One person died when his shop roof collapsed, witnesses said. Twenty others were hospitalized and hundreds of homes, shops and offices were damaged on the island's main town of Kalabahi, they said.

The earthquake and two aftershocks could be felt as far away as the East Timor capital of Dili, where witnesses said residents ran from their homes in panic.

Two East Timorese sailors were injured when the quake jolted their boat causing it to collide with a freighter in Dili harbor, while a hotel worker broke his leg after falling down in his home, a hospital official said.

The walls on several building were cracked, witnesses said.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic nation, is prone to seismic upheaval because of its location in an area where the Australian continental plate is being pushed underneath Southeast Asia, creating an arc of volcanoes and oceanic trenches.

Japan's military tracks mystery submarine

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's military on Thursday shadowed an unidentified submarine that entered its territorial waters the day before, but officials said they had not yet figured out which country the intruder was from.

Tokyo put its navy on alert Wednesday after spotting the submarine off the southern island of Okinawa and sent a reconnaissance plane and destroyer to follow its movements.

The submarine, which spent two hours in Japanese waters before leaving, was heading north Thursday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said the government was trying to confirm the vessel's identify, but he added that sometimes it helped to be vague.

"There are security issues involved. Sometimes it is better to not say things very clearly," Koizumi said.

Asked if Japan's navy was having trouble identifying the vessel, Koizumi said: "No. It's good to have advanced abilities, but sometimes it's better not to know how advanced those abilities are."

He added Japan would take "appropriate action" when it confirmed the mystery sub's identity.

Hosoda refused to confirm media reports that defense officials believe the vessel is from China, saying: "We don't have enough conclusive evidence to make a determination."

He said it would take time to identify the submarine because it had not yet surfaced and did not appear to be heading toward a specific country. Hosoda said Tokyo has not confronted any countries about the incident.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK said defense officials suspected it was a Chinese Han-class nuclear submarine, based on an analysis of the sounds it was making.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said she did not know if the vessel was Chinese.

"The Chinese side is now paying close attention to this issue and I do not approve or encourage any random suppositions on this question," Zhang told reporters at a regular briefing. "As to whether this is a Chinese submarine, I do not know and I cannot provide you any information on this."

Japan's Yomiuri newspaper said defense officials suspect Beijing may have sent the vessel to head off criticism from Tokyo about China's recent surveys for gas fields near Okinawa.

Territorial disputes have occasionally flared up between Japan and its neighbors, China and South Korea, including one with Beijing over natural gas deposits in the East China Sea that has deepened in recent months.

Japan has accused China of conducting surveys for gas fields near Okinawa that extend into Japanese territorial waters.

China says its activities are close to its coast and do not concern Japan, and it has rejected offering more information.

Noting the submarine might belong to China, a high-ranking Taiwanese official said the incident was a reminder that military authorities in Asia need to communicate better.

"It seems that the two militaries are getting closer and closer," said Joseph Wu, Taiwan's top official responsible for China policy. "If there's some kind of accident, it's not going to be good for anyone."

Wu added: "There needs to be more contacts among militaries in the region."

On Wednesday, defense officials confirmed two Chinese military vessels - a submarine rescue vessel and a towing vessel - were spotted between Friday and Monday in waters 195 miles southeast of Japan's Tanegashima island.

That is about 620 miles northeast of where the submarine was discovered Wednesday morning. Officials refused to comment on a possible link between the two incidents.

Japan has been considering ways to boost its maritime defenses after a shootout with a suspected North Korean spy ship in December 2001.



ARNOLD VISITS JAPAN AP

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, left, beams as he meets with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the premier's official residence in Tokyo Friday, Nov. 12, 2004. Schwarzenegger met Koizumi and other top Japanese officials during a California trade and tourism blitz in Tokyo, as the governor tries to fill his state's drained coffers by luring business from the world's second-biggest economy.

Magnitude 6.3 quake rocks Japanese island

TOKYO (AP)—A magnitude 6.3 earthquake rocked the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido on Thursday but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The jolt was centered 19 miles underground off the coast of Kushiro, about 550 miles northwest of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said.

There was no danger of tsunami, or tidal waves caused by seismic activity, the agency said.

The town of Kushiro-cho recorded the most powerful shaking from the quake, but local officials said there were no reports of damage.

"It only shook for a brief moment," said Noriaki Okubo of the Kushiro-cho town hall. "Nothing fell off our shelves."

A magnitude 6 earthquake can inflict widespread damage in a populated area.

The earthquake comes just weeks after a magnitude 6.8 temblor rocked the northern Japanese region of Niigata, killing 40 people and injuring more than 2,700. But with an epicenter some 500 miles northeast, Thursday's quake was not an aftershock from the Oct. 23 jolt.

As of Wednesday, about 14,800 people were still living in temporary shelters following last month's quake, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said. More than 16,000 homes, mostly in Niigata, were damaged.

Japan, which rests atop several tectonic plates, is among the world's most earthquake-prone countries.

Explosion in Chinese coal mine kills 29

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion in a coal mine has killed 29 miners in the same Chinese province where a blast at another mine claimed nearly 150 lives last month, the government said Friday.

The latest explosion occurred Thursday at the Xinsheng Coal Mine in Liangwa, a town in Henan province, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing local officials.

Six others were injured and rescuers were searching for survivors, the report said. It didn't say how many people were working in the mine at the time of the explosion and how many others might have been killed.

An explosion Oct. 20 at the Daping Mine in the city of Xinmi in Henan killed 148 people. It was the country's deadliest mine accident since 2000, when an underground explosion killed 162 people in a coal mine in the southern province of Guizhou.

China's coal mines are the most dangerous in the world, with 4,153 people reported killed in the first nine months of this year in fires, floods and explosions.

Accidents often are blamed on negligence or lack of firefighting and ventilation equipment.

World

WORLD Briefs

CRM

Young Style

Kids talk with actress Jennifer Love Hewitt

By LAUREN RUSSELL, DYLAN PRINCE and MATTHEW DEFIORE
NEWSDAY

We spoke recently with actress Jennifer Love-Hewitt. Jennifer has starred in many movies, and two we liked a lot were "The Tuxedo" with Jackie Chan and "Garfield: The Movie. " Jennifer was on the TV show "Party of Five," and she has released three solo albums. Her production company is called Love Spell Entertainment.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have a dog. She is the Garfield of dogs. She eats way too much; she is a 13-pound Chihuahua. She has a huge belly that she drags on the ground.

Q: Do you write your own songs?

A: I haven't always, but the last record I tried to write all of them.

Q: Did you want to be an actress when you were a kid?

A: I used to love a show called "Punky Brewster. "It was a show about a girl who got adopted and she had a rough go of things early on in her life, but it was a comedy. She was a tomboy. I thought I could be Punky Brewster. I wasn't sure if I wanted to be an actor, but that was where I wanted to be. When I was 7 or 8, I saw a movie with Audrey Hepburn, who was an amazing actress. When I saw her movies, I knew I wanted to be an actress.

Q: Who are your biggest role models?

A: My mom, grandmom and my brother. My mom and my grandmom are really strong people, and they are hilariously funny. They have gone through a lot in their lives and you would never know it. They have taken really good care of me. My brother is like a superhero. He is a great person.

Q: In "Garfield: the Movie," you played a vet. Would you like to be one in real life?

A: I was excited to play that, but I know I could never be smart enough to be a real doctor.

Q: Are you working on another movie?

A: I just finished a movie outside of London. It is a romantic comedy and I play an English girl. I am getting ready to go to Budapest and do the musical version of "A Christmas Carol" for NBC with Kelsey Grammer and Jason Alexander.

Q: In some biographies your name Love is listed as your middle name and your nickname. We are confused.

A: It is my middle name. My friends who know me really, really well just call me Love. People who are not really sure in interviews will put it down as my nickname, and I find that odd.

Q: Did you play any sports when you went to school?

A: I am horrible at sports. It is not good for me to be in any sporting event whatsoever because I end up hurting myself, and then people start laughing at me.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

The Berlin Wall falls

On Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall started to come down, leading to the re-unification of Germany. The 96-mile-long barrier of bricks and barbed wire was built in 1961 to keep people from escaping communist East Berlin and East Germany, which the Soviet Union controlled after World War II. Over the years, thousands of East Germans escaped to the West, and as many as 600 people died trying. ***(The Washington Post)***



A section of the Berlin Wall is lifted by a crane as workers start to dismantle the structure near the Brandenburg Gate in East Berlin.

Recommended reading for kids by kids

By KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS
NEWSDAY

'Beekman's Big Deal'

I read an advance copy of the new the book "Beekman's Big Deal" by Michael de Guzman ($16, Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Moving has never been something 12-year-old Beekman O'Day cared much for. He just accepted it as part of his life. It's the same routine every time: move, adjust, move again. So Beekman doesn't see how the move from a Manhattan hotel will be any different. At first, Beekman doesn't care much for his new life, but soon he begins to love his neighbors, particularly Fernanda, and he wants his father to marry her. Beekman and his father, Leo, make a pact to stay in one place. Leo must succeed in business; Beekman must succeed in school. Beekman will do anything to keep his side of the pact, but will Leo? Michael de Guzman, author of the novel "Melonhead," was a scriptwriter for television movies. He creates a charismatic character that readers will like. The author writes "Beekman's Big Deal" like a baker bakes a cake, mixing just the right amount of humor, detail, suspense and dialogue. This book is certain to appeal to young readers everywhere. ***(Danielle Wischenka)***

'Mia Hamm: Winners Never Quit'

The new picture book "Mia Hamm: Winners Never Quit" (HarperCollins, $15.99), written by the famous soccer player, is for all ages. It's about Mia as a young girl, playing a soccer game with her brother, her sister and their friends. When Mia can't score a goal, she quits playing and walks off the soccer field, right in the middle of the game. Her teammates are angry because she's not being a team player. The story teaches a good lesson about sportsmanship, and most kids, especially those who play sports, will be able to relate to it. We spoke with Mia Hamm recently for an upcoming issue of Kidsday. When we asked her if she plans to write any more children's books, she said she might. We hope she does. ***(Daniel Fein, Devon Gordan and Matthew Teller)***

Lemony Snicket's 'The Grim Grotto'

We read "The Grim Grotto," the eleventh book in the "Series of Unfortunate Events" by Lemony Snicket ($11.99, HarperCollins). In this book, the Baudelaire orphans encounter another unpleasant event in their miserable lives. Their plight continues as they try to escape the evil Count Olaf who wants to inherit their fortune. They get involved in adventures and try to avoid his traps and trickery. This book starts off as their last adventure -- "The Slippery Slope" ends. The Baudelaires (Violet, Klaus and Sunny) get into a submarine called the Quequeg. Together, Captain Widdershins, Phil (from the fourth book), Fiona and the Baudelaires go out in search of the Sugar Bowl. Now we can't tell you if they find it because that would mess up the book. When they are looking for the Sugar Bowl, they find a deadly mushroom called Mycelium. A spore from the mushroom got stuck in one of the Baudelaires' diving helmets and one of the children gets very sick. At this very bad time, who should come along but Count Olaf! We interviewed author Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler) in Manhattan recently for an upcoming issue of Kidsday. We asked, "Where did you come up with the last names of your characters in 'The Grim Grotto?' " He told us, "Widdershins is a word that means going the wrong way. It is interesting to me that someone is the captain of a submarine and his last name meant going the wrong way." We also asked him who his favorite character was. "I became very interested in Phil. He is one of those minor characters who was in an earlier book and came back. He is an optimist."

Will one of the Baudelaires die from the poisonous mushroom, and will they get away from Count Olaf again? Read "The Grim Grotto" to find out! It is filled with suspense and unfortunate events. We give this book 4 1/2 out of 5 stars. We recommend it to other Lemony Snicket fans, and we can't wait until the next one comes out! ***(Melissa Dileo, Jessie Driscoll, Ellie Rosenblum and Kacey Solotoff)***

'Alice the Fairy'

The very cute book "Alice the Fairy'" by David Shannon (Blue Sky Press/Scholastic; $15.95) is about a little girl who thinks she is a fairy and pretends to put spells on things. Even though this colorful picture book is recommended for kids younger than I am (I'm 10), I love it and could read it millions of times. I love the author's imagination and creativity. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 4 being the highest), I rate it a definite 4. ***(Chelsea Chizever)***

'John Muir and Stickeen: An Icy Adventure With a No-Good Dog'

Anyone who has been around dogs knows how they can wiggle their way into people's affections, even the affections of people who think they don't really like dogs. That's what happens in this book, based on a real adventure of John Muir, the legendary explorer and conservationist.

When Muir went to Alaska in 1880 to map glaciers, he encountered a dog named Stickeen. Muir didn't have much interest in pets, and at first he ignored the dog. But Stickeen kept following him. And despite Muir occasionally being annoyed with the dog, they wound up sharing a memorable adventure. This tale was recorded in Muir's journals and is neatly captured again in this book, which has suspenseful writing and captivating illustrations by Bill Farnsworth. You, too, will fall in love with Stickeen. ***(Julie Dunlap and Marybeth Lorbiecki)***

Life & Style

Cosby says his opinions are consistent

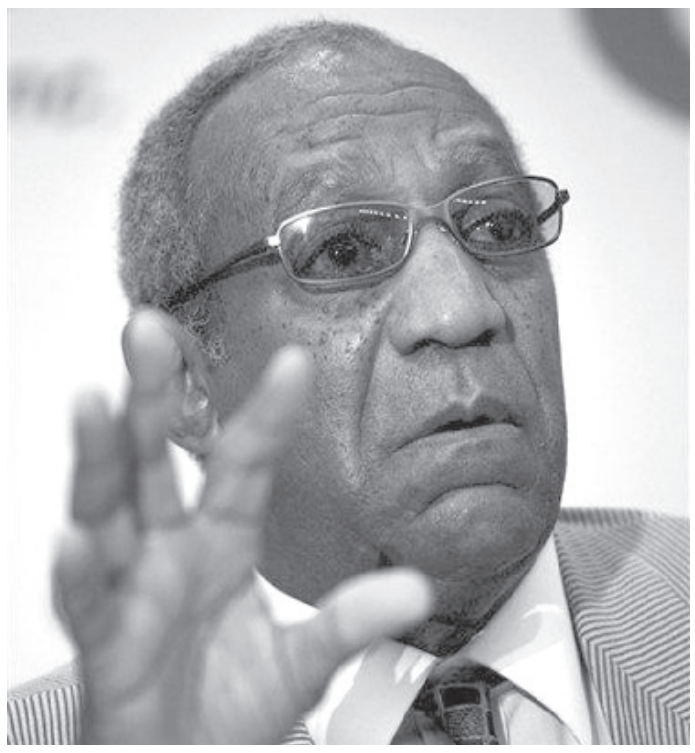
NEW YORK (AP)—Bill Cosby says the opinions he's expressed in his controversial prodding of fellow blacks are consistent with what he's done as an entertainer for more than 40 years.

In several forums this year, the 67-year-old Cosby has criticized some black children for not knowing how to read or write, said some had squandered opportunities the civil rights movement gave them and unfairly blame whites for problems such as teen pregnancy and high dropout rates.

"I didn't take this as a job," Cosby told CNN's Paula Zahn in an interview that was to air Thursday night. "I took this as an emotion. No, and I'm not stopping, either."

As a young comic in the 1960s, Cosby said he didn't want to be like other black comedians and talk about race issues.

"I don't play that," he said. "You're not going to laugh at the color of my skin. You're going to laugh with me at our similarities, and some of our differences. But I'm not going to have you, because this is not the time in this United States of America, where you're going to laugh at what my people are suffering with."



AP

Actor Bill Cosby addresses a gathering at the annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, on Sept. 8, 2004, in Washington.

In the 1980s, "The Cosby Show" came out of seeing so many sitcoms with children smarter than their parents. It seemed many comedy writers had bad relationships with their parents and were trying to retaliate, he said. He wanted to depict parents as strong role models.

Even the cartoon characters in "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids" were designed as misfits who made something of themselves, he said.

Cosby said the poet Maya Angelou told him, "You know, Bill, you're a very nice man, but you have a big mouth." He said he doesn't mind that role as long as he makes people think.



AP

Entertainer Madonna talks to children during the launch of her fourth book, The Adventures of Abdi, in a London department store, Thursday Nov. 11, 2004.

Fans wait in line 24 hours to see Madonna

LONDON (AP)—Hundreds of Madonna fans lined up for 24 hours outside a central London bookstore where the pop singer signed copies of her new children's book Thursday.

But only the first 250 hopefuls were allowed into Selfridges on Oxford St. to watch Madonna read from "The Adventures of Abdi" before signing copies.

Crowds who gathered on the shopping street for a glimpse of the singer were disappointed when she was smuggled into the store through an underground car park.

Madonna later gave a 10-minute reading to a group of 30 schoolchildren, aged eight to 10, from St. Winifred's Catholic Junior School in south London.

"The Adventures of Abdi," is the fourth book in a five-book children's series Madonna has penned for Callaway Editions. Callaway has already published "The English Roses," "Mr. Peabody's Apples" and "Yakov and the Seven Thieves."

Grant signals end to acting career

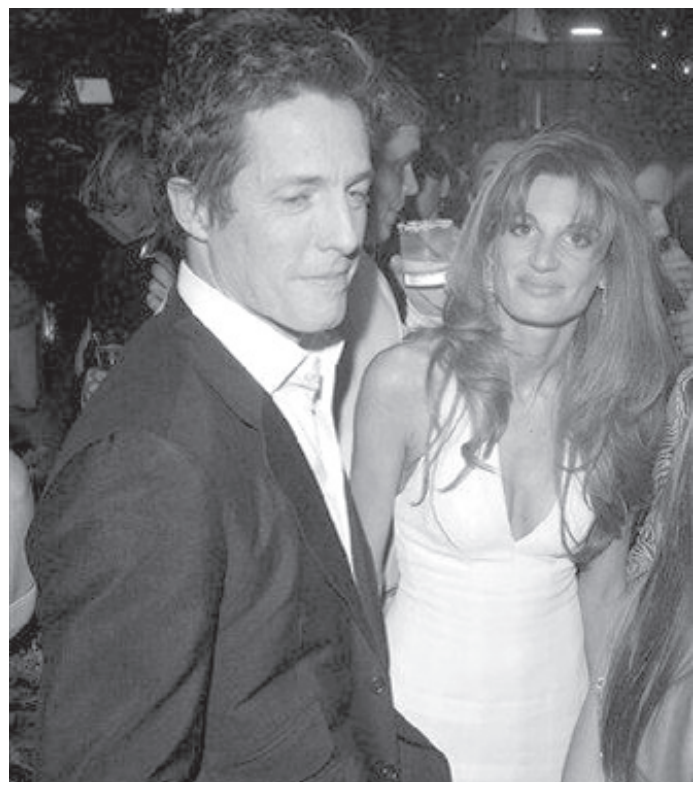
LONDON (AP)—Hugh Grant says he's lost interest in acting and is heading into retirement. Grant, who plays heartthrob Daniel Cleaver in "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," was quoted Thursday by the Evening Standard's Metro magazine as saying film acting is a "miserable experience."

"It's so long and boring and so difficult to get right," Grant said.

"I am sort of semiretired," he said. "I keep thinking I'm going to write a brilliant script."

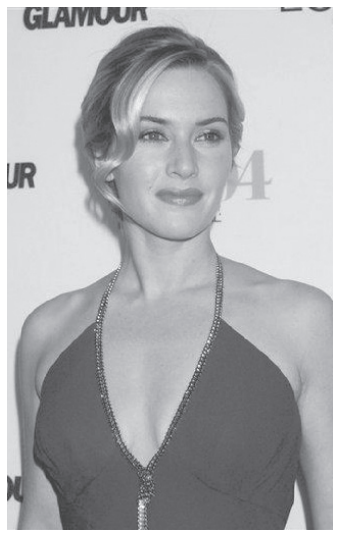
Grant, whose screen credits include "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Notting Hill" and the first "Bridget Jones" movie, gained international notoriety when he was caught in a car with Hollywood prostitute Divine Brown in 1995.

The 44-year-old actor, who took his new girlfriend, heiress Jemima Khan, to this week's London premiere of "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," told the magazine he didn't feel pressure to settle down.



AP

Actor Hugh Grant and Jemima Khan arrive at the premiere afterparty for his latest film "Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason," late Tuesday, Nov.9, 2004, held at the Tobacco Dock in east London.



AP

Actress Kate Winslet arrives for the 15th Annual Glamour Women of the Year Awards, Monday, Nov. 8, 2004, in New York.

Poll says Winslet would be great 'Bridget'

LONDON (AP)—If Renee Zellweger has grown tired of playing Bridget Jones, British fans would like to see an English star in the role.

Kate Winslet, 29, was the most popular choice to replace Zellweger if she turned down a part in a third installment, according to a fan vote published Thursday.

"Fight Club" actress Helena Bonham Carter was among other British actresses getting votes.

Zellweger, 35, played the role of the chubby, chain-smoking, chardonnay-swilling British TV journalist in the 2001 film "Bridget Jones's Diary" and its sequel, "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," which had its red-carpet premiere in London this week.

"Titanic" star Winslet took 41 percent of the vote in a survey by Sky Movies, a pay TV channel. Reese Witherspoon, 28, was the second most popular choice in the vote by 3,476 viewers, followed by "Friends" star Jennifer Anniston.

Producers haven't said whether they plan a third film.

The "Bridget Jones" movies are based on two novels by Helen Fielding.

Asked at this week's premiere if she would take on the role a third time, Zellweger said: "You tell me if Helen Fielding writes another book. People have responded to Bridget with a lot of affection."

Rape that teen keeps secret continues to haunt her mind

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN



DEAR ABBY: I am a sophomore in high school. When I was 13, I had a party while my parents were not at home. I got drunk, and my boyfriend, "Jimmy Joe," raped me. I tried to kill myself afterward, but was unsuccessful. I told my best friend that Jimmy Joe and I had broken up because we never got to see each other.

Two years later, I had a mental meltdown and told her why I really broke up with Jimmy Joe. She said I should tell my father, since he and I are really close.

Daddy has always trusted me, and I'm afraid if I tell him, he'll lose trust in me because of the party I had when he and Mom weren't home. Because it has been so long since it happened, and I am over it now, is it even worth telling him about it?

UNDECIDED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR UNDECIDED: Giving the party was wrong, but the rape was not your fault. Tell your father what happened. He may be disappointed that you broke the rules, but he will also be concerned for your welfare. You may discover that by revealing what happened, you become closer to both your parents. It is never too late to get help, and if this episode were truly over, you would not be having "meltdowns." There are crisis centers for rape victims, and it would benefit you to visit one and tell your story. That's how healing begins.

DEAR ABBY: I need help! I have this friend who insists on buying me gifts that I don't want, like or need. She buys me T-shirts that don't fit me, among other items. She's driving me crazy. She says she does it because I'm her best friend. (She's not my best friend.)

I have told her several times to please stop spending her money on me. She won't listen. Most of the gifts she gives me end up going to charity.

Why does she do this? How can I get her to stop spending and wasting her money? I don't—and won't—buy her anything.

GOING CRAZY IN PORTLAND

DEAR GOING CRAZY: She does it because she wants to be your best friend and she knows she's not. She thinks that if she keeps on giving, it will persuade you to like her more. You can get her to stop by refusing to accept the gifts. Tell her you like her, but that being on the receiving end all the time makes you feel uncomfortable. A lot of people make that mistake. They give and give and give some more, and when they don't get what they want in return, they feel cheated.

DEAR ABBY: How do I set limits with a neighbor who is kind and good-hearted, but who will not leave me alone? She has told me to close my blinds and curtains, and then she won't come over—but I don't want to sit in my house in the dark. When I do that, she comes and looks for me at my work. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but she is stressing me out.

HIDING IN DOVER, DEL.

DEAR HIDING: Your kind, good-hearted neighbor may be bored or lonely, but she also lacks judgment. Since you need privacy, speak up. Tell her she's stressing you out, and that when you want company you'll call and invite her over. Tell her you prefer that she not drop by without calling first. Should she come to your office, explain that you are too busy to visit. It's the truth. Please don't wait, because if you continue to tolerate her behavior, one day you'll explode and say something you'll regret.

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: Happy Eid al-Fitr!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Seminoles hold off Wolfpack 17-10

By KEITH PARSONS
AP SPORTS WRITER

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Lorenzo Booker and James Coleman each ran for third-quarter touchdowns, helping No. 11 Florida State rally past North Carolina State 17-10 Thursday night in a game that featured 22 punts, four turnovers and less than 250 yards of combined offense.

Last season, these two teams went to double overtime before the Seminoles prevailed 50-44. It seems a lot longer than a year ago in a lot of ways.

Florida State (8-2, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) went deep into the second quarter before its yardage total exceeded the number of plays. Quarterback Wyatt Sexton, who was sacked five times, finished 5-for-18 for only 73 yards. Leading rusher Leon Washington was held to 56 yards on 18 carries after missing the previous two games with a shoulder injury.

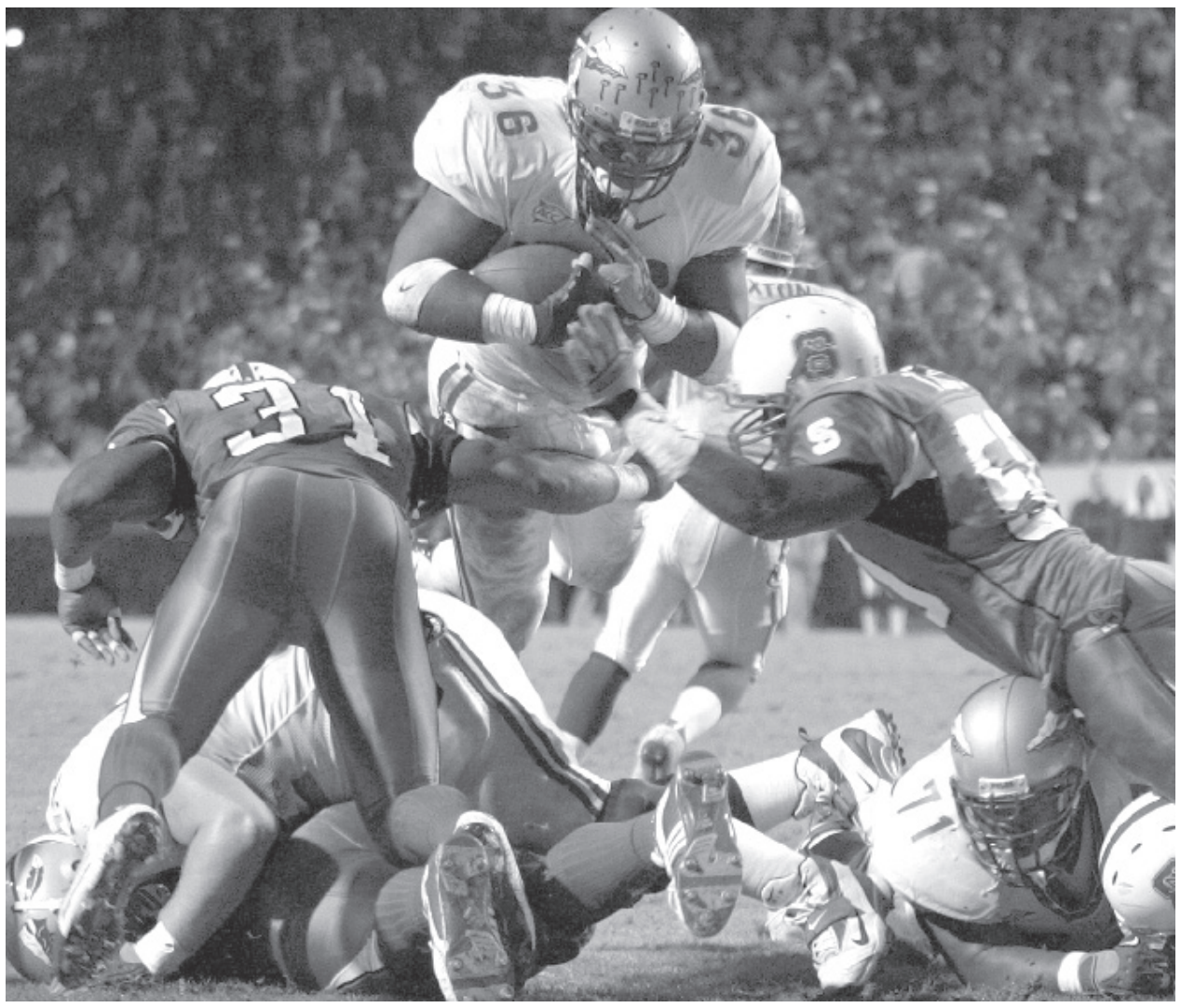
Still, it was enough. The lone touchdown for the Wolfpack (4-6, 3-5) came on Darrell Blackman's 87-yard punt return in the second quarter that gave them a 10-0 lead. But even though they rotated quarterbacks, they couldn't generate much offense after halftime.

They had only one first down—fittingly, on a pass interference penalty—and 26 yards in the final two periods. Jay Davis and Marcus Stone were a combined 9-for-25 for 100 yards as former N.C. State star quarterback Philip Rivers watched from the sidelines.

Boston Red Sox outfielder Trot Nixon, whose wife attended N.C. State, joined Rivers, but even he couldn't provide the necessary karma to help the Wolfpack.

After spending the entire first half on its own side of midfield, Florida State started all five of its drives in the third quarter in N.C. State's territory. Coleman capped the first one with a 1-yard plunge to make it 10-7, and after a three-and-out by the Wolfpack, the Seminoles needed to drive only 35 yards for the go-ahead score.

Sexton completed a 25-yard pass to Booker on third-and-6 to set up first-and-goal, and a play later, Booker raced in from the 4 to give Florida State a 14-10 lead. Gary Cismesia added a 44-yard field goal late in the quarter to complete the scoring.



Florida State's james Coleman (36) dives over North Carolina State players Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay (31) and Stephen Tulloch (50) for a touchdown in the third quarter of Florida State's 17-10 win in Raleigh, N.C. Thursday Nov. 11, 2004
AP

Shaq hits 22,000 points but Heat lose

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP SPORTS WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—Instead of making a serious run at acquiring Shaquille O'Neal over the summer, the Dallas Mavericks decided to build their team around Dirk Nowitzki.

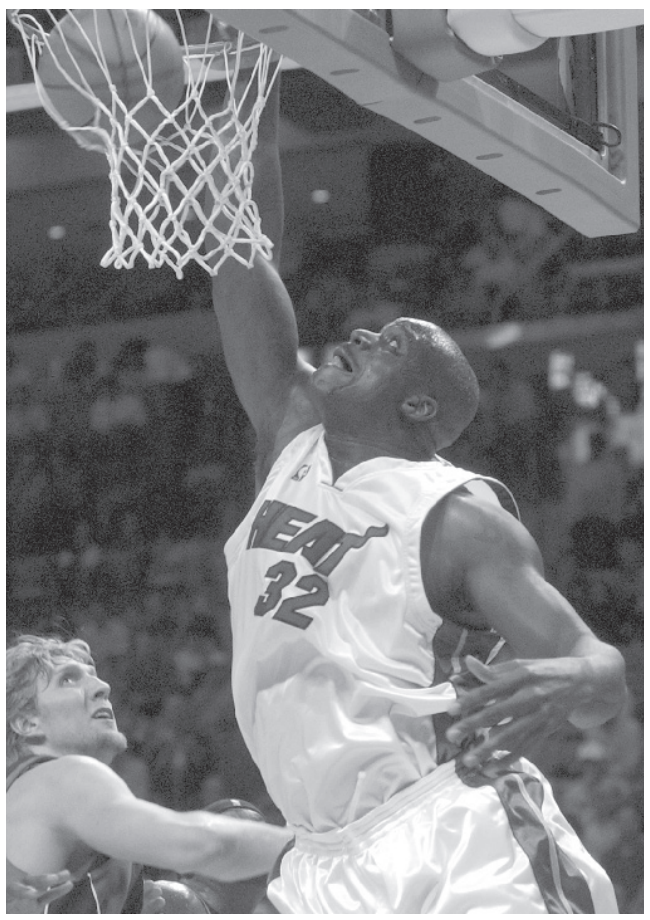
The logic couldn't be faulted Thursday. Nowitzki had 41 points, two off his career high, and Marquis Daniels added 22 to help Dallas beat Miami 113-93, ending the Heat's unbeaten start and their franchise-record 14-game home win streak.

Nowitzki made 12 of 24 shots from the field, shot 4-for-7 from 3-point range, made all 13 of his free-throw tries and added 10 rebounds for Dallas (5-1).

O'Neal had 22 points—giving him 22,002 for his career—and 10 rebounds for the Heat, which lost for the first time in five games this season. Dwyane Wade added 20 points, eight rebounds and five assists before spraining his left ankle with 7:07 remaining. He did not return.

Dallas built a 14-point halftime lead and opened the third quarter with an 18-4 burst that pushed its lead to 89-63 against a Heat team that trailed by 4 minutes, 44 seconds in its first four games combined. Miami got back within 95-82 by the end of the third, but never seriously challenged the Mavs.

Dallas shot only 29.2 percent two nights earlier in Orlando, but the Mavericks came out firing against Miami—which held its first four opponents to 41 percent shooting.



AP

Miami Heat's Shaquille O' Neal (32) scores over Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, left, in the first quarter Thursday, Nov. 11, 2004 in Miami.

Dallas made 11 of its first 15 shots, while Miami missed 10 of its first 13. For the game, the Mavericks shot 52.6 percent; Miami managed to connect on 37.2 percent of its shots.

Timberwolves 96, Rockets 91

In Houston, Kevin Garnett hit a jumper with 8.3 seconds left and finished one assist shy of a triple double, leading the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 96-91 win over the Houston Rockets on Thursday night.

Garnett had 20 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists, and Eddie Griffin made a key 3-pointer down the stretch against the team with which he began his troubled career, sending the Timberwolves past a Rockets team missing leading scorer Tracy McGrady.

McGrady missed his first game of the season with nagging hip and groin strains. He had said during Wednesday's practice that he might try to play, but instead he took a few shots during pregame warmups and later came back to the bench in a dark brown suit.

The Rockets really could've used him.

Yao Ming scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half and Maurice Taylor added 19, but Houston's perimeter players weren't able to replace McGrady's scoring punch.

Filling in for McGrady, third-year swingman Bostjan Nachbar scored 11 points in the first half but was shut out after that. Rockets guard Jim Jackson also started fast, scoring nine in the first two quarters but only four after the break.

Meanwhile, Garnett took over in the second half.

Twins' Santana wins AL Cy Young

NEW YORK (AP)—As joyous fans celebrated by honking car horns in Caracas, Johan Santana sounded overwhelmed. He became the first Venezuelan to win a Cy Young Award, and not only that, he was a unanimous choice.

"This is like a dream come true," he said after earning the American League honor Thursday. "I'm a little surprised that I ended up the season where I ended up the season."

The Minnesota Twins' left-hander received all 28 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America,

Santana, who went 20-6 and led the AL with a 2.61 ERA and 265 strikeouts, became the first unanimous Cy Young winner since Arizona's Randy Johnson two years ago and the first in the AL since Boston's Pedro Martinez in 2000. He is the 18th unanimous winner overall, the seventh in the AL.

Curt Schilling, 21-6 with a 3.26 ERA in his first season with the Red Sox, received 27 second-place votes and one third for 82 points. Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees, who led the major leagues with a career-high 53 saves, received the other second-place vote and 24 thirds for 27 points.

"I'm surprised this has been a unanimous decision," Santana said. "I thought this was going to be a real tough race."

Santana traveled Thursday morning from his hometown of Tovar Merida to Caracas. President Hugo Chavez planned to congratulate him Friday.

Santana was 13-0 with a 1.21 ERA in 15 starts after the All-Star break, mastering his changeup.

Voting was conducted before the start of the postseason, when Schilling beat the Yankees in Game 6 of the AL championship series and St. Louis in Game 2 of the World Series despite pitching with a dislocated ankle tendon held together by sutures. Boston went on to sweep St. Louis to win the World Series for the first time since 1918.



Minnesota Twins' Johan Santana pitches against the Boston Red Sox Sunday, in this Aug. 1, 2004 file photo, in Minneapolis. Baseball-crazed Venezuelans celebrated pitcher Santana's award as the American League Cy Young winner on Thursday.
AP

No. 6 Syracuse overwhelms N. Colorado, 104-54

SYRACUSE, New York (AP)—Hakim Warrick had 19 points, 10 rebounds and five assists to lead No. 6 Syracuse to a 104-54 victory over Northern Colorado on Thursday night in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Syracuse (1-0) will play Princeton (1-0) in the second round Friday night. The Tigers beat Bucknell 61-48 in the Carrier Dome earlier Thursday.

Northern Colorado (0-1), in only its second season back in Division I, had not played a ranked Division I team since 1957 and the Orange were merciless, scoring the first 24 points of the game.

Gerry McNamara, who finished with 11 points and five assists, hit two straight 3-pointers and a fast-break layup and Warrick, a preseason All-America, had six points to pace Syracuse's early surge.

The Bears, meanwhile, missed their first eight shots and two free throws and committed five turnovers while the Orange hit nine of their first 10 shots. Northern Colorado finally broke through on a 3-pointer by Sean Nolen at 12:27, but by then the game essentially was over.



Syracuse's Terrence Roberts grimaces in pain after injuring his knee against Northern Colorado during the second half in Syracuse, N.Y., Thursday, Nov. 11, 2004. Roberts had to be carried off the court by teammates. Syracuse won, 105-54.

AP

Josh Pace had 13 points, Darryl Watkins added 12 and Demetris Nichols had 11 for Syracuse, which shot 67.3 percent in taking a 53-20 halftime lead.

Sean Taibi had 16 points and seven rebounds, Nolen finished with eight points for the Bears, who shot 25.4 percent for the game.

Forward Terrence Roberts, one of four sophomores Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim is counting on, fell hard to the floor midway through the second half and sprained his left knee. He lay writhing in pain for more than a minute before being helped to the locker room.

No. 24 Memphis 102, Savannah St. 40

In Memphis, Rodney Carney scored 21 points and No. 24 Memphis had six players finish in double figures in a 102-40 victory over Savannah State on Thursday night in the opening round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Carney was 7-of-12 from the field, including 3-of-5 from 3-point range, for the Tigers (1-0), who will play George Mason in the second round on Saturday night. The Patriots (1-0) beat Ind.-Pur.-Fort Wayne 69-51 Thursday night.

Anthony Rice scored 17 points for Memphis, while Sean Banks finished with 15 and Jeremy Hunt added 14. Freshman forward Joey Dorsey finished with 10 points and 16 rebounds, while freshman point guard Darius Washington had 10 points and eight assists.

Josh Barker led Savannah State (0-1) with 12 points, while Donald Carson added 10.

Memphis steadily built the lead through the first half, leading by as many as 34 points before taking a 55-22 halftime lead.

The advantage was built around solid shooting, particularly from 3-point range, control of the boards and a defense that limited Savannah State to 29 percent shooting and 11 turnovers in the first half.

No. 12 Mississippi St. 53, Fairfield 49

In Birmingham, Alabama, Ontario Harper scored a career-high 17 points and No. 12 Mississippi State, playing without preseason All-America Lawrence Roberts, beat Fairfield 53-49 Thursday night in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Roberts, a senior forward, sat out because of a one-game suspension from the NCAA over his expenses to attend a tryout before the NBA draft.

The Bulldogs (1-0), who trailed for much of the game before taking the lead for good midway through the second half, will play Birmingham-Southern (1-0) in the second round on Friday night. Birmingham-Southern beat Alabama A&M 79-69 on Thursday.

Winsome Frazier and Gary Ervin hit consecutive 3-pointers to give the Bulldogs a 47-39 lead with 1:44 to play.

Fairfield (0-1) got within three points in the closing seconds, but Harper made one of two free throws with 3 seconds left for the final margin.

Deng Gai had 14 points and eight rebounds for Fairfield.

Clemens, Hentgen file for free agency

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Clemens, fresh off his record seventh Cy Young Award, became a free agent Thursday on the final day to file, along with former Cy Young winner Pat Hentgen.

The 42-year-old Clemens, who went 18-4 for the Houston Astros, won the NL Cy Young Award on Tuesday and hasn't said whether he intends to pitch again next season.

Hentgen, winner of the 1996 AL Cy Young Award, went 2-9 with a 6.95 ERA for Toronto and retired in late July. Hentgen, who turns 36 Saturday, came off the voluntarily retired list earlier this week. By becoming a free agent he can sign with any team if he decides he wants to play again.

Pittsburgh closer Joe Mesa, who could have become a free agent, instead agreed Thursday to a $2.5 million, one-year contract with the Pirates.

A total of 207 players filed for free agency, three fewer than last year.

Free agents can start negotiating money with all teams starting Friday. Center fielder Carlos Beltran, third baseman Adrian Beltre, first baseman Carlos Delgado, catcher Jason Varitek, shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, and pitchers Pedro Martinez, Derek Lowe, Troy Percival, Carl Pavano, Eric Milton, Russ Ortiz and Kevin Millwood are among those available.

Mauresmo wins WTA Championships easily

By BETH HARRIS
AP SPORTS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Amelie Mauresmo routed Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-0 in 54 minutes at the WTA Championships on Thursday night, extending her winning streak to nine matches as the Frenchwoman tries to overtake Lindsay Davenport for the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Mauresmo's streak includes titles the last two weeks in Philadelphia and Linz, Austria. She also reached the final last month in Filderstadt, Germany, but had to withdraw because of a groin strain.

Mauresmo spent five weeks in the No. 1 spot after the U.S. Open before her injury gave Davenport a walkover victory in Germany. That allowed the American to overtake Mauresmo, and Davenport could stay there if she reaches the final Monday night.

"Reaching the No. 1 ranking was a big step for me. I felt relief at that," Mauresmo said. "Since then, I feel very confident on court and my game is there. I want to get the ranking back, but it's very different than before I was number one. It was an obsession, but now I take it in a relaxed way."



AP

Amelie Mauresmo of France returns a shot to Vera Zvonareva of Russia at the WTA Tour Championships, Thursday ngiht, Nov. 11, 2004, in Los Angeles.

Making her first appearance in the season-ending tournament, Zvonareva committed 25 errors and never had a break point against Mauresmo's serve. The Frenchwoman connected on 73 percent of her first serves.

"She got mad a little bit and I played some great tennis," said Mauresmo, who was runner-up to Kim Clijsters in last year's final.

Zvonareva is 0-2 so far, having lost 6-2, 6-4 to Svetlana Kuznetsova on Wednesday night. For the second straight match, an emotional Zvonareva bounced her racket off the court, smacked balls in anger and tears streaked her face after the loss.

"Sometimes not everything works," she said. "It was lots of pressure. Maybe that is why I couldn't do one hundred percent. But I was fighting."

The players are assigned to Red and Black four-woman groups and play each other once. The two players with the best record from each group will advance to the semifinals. The singles winner will earn $1 million and a car to donate to charity.

Davenport didn't play Thursday, but she still won a nice prize. She received a new car as the leading qualifier for the eight-woman tournament.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Northeast Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	G B
Toronto	4	1	0.800	-
Boston	2	2	0.500	1 1/2
New Jersey	2	3	0.400	2
Philadelphia	2	3	0.400	2
New York	1	2	0.333	2

Central Division

Indiana	4	1	0.800	-
Detroit	3	1	0.750	1 / 2
Milwaukee	2	1	0.667	1
Cleveland	2	3	0.400	2
Chicago	0	3	0.000	3

Southeast Division

Miami	4	1	0.800	-
Orlando	3	2	0.600	1
Washington	3	2	0.600	1
Charlotte	1	2	0.333	2
Atlanta	0	4	0.000	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	5	1	0.833	-
San Antonio	3	1	0.750	1
Houston	3	3	0.500	2
Memphis	1	4	0.200	3 1/2
New Orleans	0	4	0.000	4

Northwest Division

Seattle	4	1	0.800	-
Utah	4	1	0.800	-
Minnesota	3	2	0.600	1
Portland	2	3	0.400	2
Denver	1	4	0.200	3

Pacific Division

Phoenix	4	1	0.800	-
L.A. Clippers	3	2	0.600	1
L.A. Lakers	3	3	0.500	1 1/2
Sacramento	1	4	0.200	3
Golden State	0	5	0.000	4

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

CINCINNATI REDS-Agreed to terms with RHP Josh Hall, LHP Jeriome Robertson and OF Kenny Kelly on minor league contracts.

CLEVELAND INDIANS-Named Doug Carpenter professional scout and Derrick Ross and Mike Soper amateur scouts.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS-Agreed to terms with 3B Chris Truby on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES-Agreed to terms with RHP Jose Mesa on a one-year contract and RHP Salomon Torres on a two-year contract. Declined to exercise their 2005 option on RHP Brian Boehringer.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS-Agreed to terms with INF Jason Alfaro, LHP Adrian Burnside, LHP Jessie Carlson, RHP Spike Lundberg, RHP Michael Nannini and RHP Matt Whiteside on minor league contracts.

NBA

DALLAS MAVERICKS-Placed G Michael Finley on the injured list.

NFL

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS-Signed K Jason Baker. Placed LB Keyon Whiteside on injured reserve.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS-Re-signed WR Gari Scott to the practice squad. Released DB Omare Lowe from the practice squad.

College

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE - Suspended UNLV CB Ruschard Dodd-Master for one game for throwing a punch at Wyoming WR Josh Barge in a Nov. 6 game.

GREAT FALLS-Announced it is adding women's soccer beginning with the 2005 fall season.

By The Associated Press

Brooks edges Big Tuna to take the cake

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER

After the Pittsburgh Steelers made it their mission to upend the two undefeated teams in back to back weeks, the 1972 Dolphins doffed their caps to the Steel City and uncorked the bubbly. Yet again, the teams that looked as though they might maneuver through the season without a scratch have fallen, thus preserving the pristine season of '72 no-names.

While this is not the first time that teams with perfect records have lost in consecutive weeks, it is the first time that they were knocked off by the same opponent. In doing so, the Pittsburgh Steelers have put their own stamp in the history books of the National Football League.

What makes this feat even more remarkable is that the Steelers are doing damage to all of the teams that stand in their way with a rookie quarterback. Few mentioned the name of Ben Roethlisberger in the same breath as Eli Manning and Philip Rivers on draft day, but someone in Pittsburgh was quietly smiling when he slipped further and further into the draft.

The defense isn't loafing around either, as they have been punishing opposing offenses with the same type of intensity that brings back memories of the days when their "D" was referred to as the Steel Curtain. Tom Jackson of ESPN and Denver Broncos fame recently dubbed them the toughest team in football, and after the way that they have been playing, it's not difficult to understand why.

While the Steelers have been on a tear since the rookie has taken the reins, there are a couple of other teams in the league that have begun to turn things around with the help of new faces. Take the Buffalo Bills and rookie running back Willis McGahee. There is no coincidence that the thundering herd has gone 3-0 in the last three weeks when he has started. McGahee has churned out over 100 yards in each of the last three games, and is averaging 115 yards per game.

It is possible that the offensive line has started to block like professional unit instead of a bunch of Pop Warner newbies, but it's hard to fathom that the newfound success of the team that " Makes me wanna Shout!" has anything other to do with No. 21.

While the pro's don't have all of the answers, our local prognosticators William Hunter, John Blanco, Richard Brooks, Jennifer Lee, and Jimmy "Big Tuna" Sablan have returned to explain the world of football.

Will finished off Week 9 with a solid 8-6 to improve his overall record to 71-43. He is now all alone in first place due to Jennifer's first sub-par week. After last week's abysmal 5-9, Jennifer dropped into second place overall at 69-47. The season's race to the top place is now anybody's game, as Big Tuna improved to 68-46, followed by John at 67-47. Even Rich has a shot at the title thanks to his 10-4 finish that led the pack. "Big Daddy" Brooks is now within striking distance of the leader at 60-47, and there is a long way to go.



WEEK TEN PICKS	WILL HUNTER	JOHN BLANCO	RICH BROOKS	JENNIFER LEE	BIG TUNA
BAL @ NYJ	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	BALTIMORE	N.Y. JETS
CHI @ TEN	TENNESSEE	TENNESSEE	CHICAGO	TENNESSEE	TENNESSEE
DET @ JAC	JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE
HOU @ IND	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS
KC @ NO	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	NEW ORLEANS
PIT @ CLE	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH
SEA @ STL	ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	SEATTLE	ST. LOUIS
TB @ ATL	ATLANTA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA
WAS @ ARI	WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON	CINCINNATI	CINCINNATI	WASHINGTON
CAR @ SF	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	CAROLINA	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO
MIN @ GB	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	MINNESOTA	GREEN BAY	MINNESOTA
NYG @ STL	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS
BUF @ NE	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	BUFFALO	NEW ENGLAND
PHI @ DAL	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
BYE WEEK	DENVER, MIAMI, OAKLAND, SAN DIEGO				
GUARANTEED PICK OF THE WEEK	My pick of the week has to go to the Pittsburgh Steelers. What an amazing drive of win they have had knocking out two undefeated teams in the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles—and with rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. I think Cleveland will have to be hoping for a miracle to get by the Steelers.	My pick of the week is the New England Patriots over the Buffalo Bills. I've got to go with the Pats over the Bills again because Buffalo is just not having a good year. It's sorry to say because Drew Bledsoe is a fellow alumnus, but he should just hang it up and retire already.	My "Big Daddy" sure-shot of the week is that Pittsburgh will do a job on Cleveland. The way the Black and Gold have been "Knocking out" the top undefeated teams over the past weeks is a sure sign that the "Steel Curtain" of years past is back. The Steelers are a team that comes to play, and they can put a hurtin' on you if you're not ready—and the Browns are not ready!	My best bet is that the Baltimore defense is going to Ravenize Jets' quarterback Quincy Carter, and send the Cowboy castaway back to the sidelines. Curtis Martin and Jamal Lewis will be providing much of the offense for their respective teams, but Ray Lewis will be the difference maker in this low scoring affair.	My guarantee is that the Eagles will trounce the Cowboys to redeem themselves after the last week's fiasco with the men of steel. They need a win right away to stay focused on their quest as Superbowl contenders.

11th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon a week away

The Rota Mayor's Office announced the return of the Rota Blue Triathlon on Saturday, Nov. 20, featuring a 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bicycle ride, and a 10km run.

According to Kiyokazu Onishi of the Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan, this year's triathlon has attracted the attention of the presidents and owners of several ranking corporations from the Japanese business world.

Over 20 people will accompany the CEOs, including their wives, coaches, bicycle mechanics, and secretaries. In addition, the businessmen have arranged for a photographer from a Japanese triathlon magazine to cover the event as well.

To date, there are 90 registered entrants from Japan and 15 from Guam, but the Mayor's Office would like to encourage athletes from all of the neighboring islands to partake in all that Rota has to offer.

For more information about the 11th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon, contact the Mayor's representative, Martin Mendiola, by calling 670-532-9451/2/3, by facsimile 670-235-6454, or via email at moluta@gtepacifica.net. ***(Brad E. Ruszala)***

PIC

From Page 28

they are so nice that they don't want the opposition to experience losing on their watch.

Their next mission of mercy is next Tuesday, Nov. 16, when they try to bestow the gift of winning upon the Bill Bratzski's at 8pm, while the Tom Braiders will attempt to school the Dolphins next Thursday, Nov. 18 at 6pm.

The final game of the night was also sweep-tastic, as the same Bill Bratzski's took a broom to Machigainai! and didn't stop beating them with it until the game was over. Powered by the strong arm of captain Catherine Chapman, the Bratzski's delivered a 1-2-3 punch that left the fans looking for a towel to throw.

Machigainai! is now a step closer to achieving their goal of a perfect season. Though there is no rule against intentionally throwing a game, Machigainai! did it's best to look as if they were trying to play for the win. At 0-9, the dream is still alive for Machigainai!, and their next contest is against the team of fellow cellar dwellers—Team Papalatung. The battle of the winless wonders takes place next Thursday, Nov. 18 at 8pm, and somebody has to win.

Things were going as scheduled in the first three games of the night, as the Dolphins of Marianas High School (7-3) downed Team Papalatung (0-8), Shoot The Winkle (5-5) swept Esemuoel (0-8), and Bend It Like Megan (6-1) baked the Clam Smackers (3-6).

All the side-outs you can handle will be doled out again next Tuesday at the PIC. If you would like further information about the 6th Annual Miller 4-Person Beach Volleyball League, contact Jon, Evan, Dennis, or Nan by calling the SEA office at 235-6231 ext. 5147.

CALLING

From Page 28

tween the two tournaments Guam cannot accept the winners of the TOC Super Seniors flight. This flight does not exist in the Guam tournament.

Entry forms and contact information are available at the DFS Security Office in Garapan for any interested players.



Seminoles hold off Wolfpack 17-10

Lorenzo Booker and James Coleman each ran for third-quarter touchdowns, helping No. 11 Florida State rally past North Carolina State 17-10 Thursday night.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mauresmo wins WTA Championships

Amelie Mauresmo routed Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-0 in 54 minutes at the WTA Championships on Thursday night, extending her winning streak to nine matches.

26



PIC: And then there were none



One of the top passers in the league, Laura Burley, sets up one of her teammates in action during her team's game against the Esemuoel on Thursday night in continuation of the 6th Annual Miller 4-person Volleyball League at the Pacific Islands Club.

BRAD E. RUSZALA

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER

After enjoying the fruits of an eight-game stretch in which they were undefeated, Flush It! finally found themselves on the right side of the win-loss column, as Bend It Like Megan swept them in straight sets in continuation of the 6th Annual Miller 4-Person Beach Volleyball League.

Operating under the assumption that one good turn deserves another, Bend It Like Megan sent Flush It! down the drain 11-4, 11-8, and 12-10 to take the FI-guys down a notch for the first time all season.

The Megan-like contortionists improved their record to 7-1, and are a full game behind Flush It! (8-1). Had they not suffered a flame out last week in their match up with the Dragon Flares, the Megans would be all alone in first place.

Flush It! has three games remaining in the season, and they'll have to win out against Team Papalatung (0-8) next Tuesday, Nov. 16, the Bananas (5-4) on Tuesday, Nov. 23, and the Dragon Flares (6-2) on Tuesday, Nov. 30, if they hope to have a shot at keeping the title.

Bend It Like Megan has to keep their focus for four games if they intend to vie for the top spot, and they have to duke it out with Shoot The Winkle (4-5) next Tuesday, Nov. 16, the unparalleled Machigainai! on Tuesday, Nov. 23, the dangerous Sleezy Lambleezies on Tuesday, Nov. 30, and Tell Them Tom Braider Sent You on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

In another match up of the league's top teams, the Sleezy Lambleezies upended the Dolphins of Marianas High School to improve their record to 7-1. The stately students dropped to a 7-4, and a disappointing sixth place.

The Lambleezies didn't waste any time as they took the first set 11-7. They followed it up with a 11-1 whooping in the second to officially take the win. The determined Dolphins never gave up, and their effort paid off in the third set, as they walked off the court on the winning side of an 11-6 final set.

The Lambleezies return to action on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 7pm, when they try to peel the Bananas, while the under-aged overachievers play the 6pm match against Tell Them Tom Braider Sent You.

Those same Tom Braiders (7-2) got in some spring-cleaning as they swept Esemuoel (0-8) into an esem-dustpan and out of the esem-door, 11-5, 11-3, and 11-8. The E-Team has yet to win a game, but it's just possible that

See PIC on Page 27

Bills weigh switching Vincent to safety

By JOHN WAWROW
AP SPORTS WRITER

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Troy Vincent's injured right knee isn't healing as fast as expected. Even when it does, the veteran Bills cornerback might have to learn a new position—free safety.

Still considering himself a cornerback, Vincent on Thursday indicated he might have to make the switch for the good of the team.

When that happens will first depend on when he's ready to return, having missed five games since he was hurt in Buffalo's 31-17 loss at home to New England on Oct. 3.

Despite being listed as questionable for Sunday's game at New England, Vincent all but ruled himself out after spending the last two days practicing on a limited basis.

Initially projected to miss up to four weeks, Vincent said the knee's progressing, but still isn't strong enough for him to play.

"We've tried certain things in the training room. We go out on the football field and my body only allows me to do so much," Vincent said. "It's frustrating, it's disappointing. I don't think anybody wants to be injured."

The potential switch to safety did not catch Vincent off-guard. He and the Bills discussed such a scenario before he signed with the team last spring.

And yet, the possibility of playing a different position is difficult to accept for one of the NFL's top cornerbacks who earned five Pro Bowl selections during his 12 seasons.

"The selfish side says, `Of course not, go find somebody else to do that,'" Vincent said. "If it's the best thing for the team, obviously, that's something I need to consider, that's something that I will strongly consider."

Coach Mike Mularkey would only call it an option when asked about moving Vincent to safety.

The potential switch comes because the Bills have been encouraged by Terrence McGee as a fill-in during Vincent's absence.

At free safety, Vincent would take over for Izell Reese, a seven-year veteran.



AP

Buffalo Bills' Nate Clements (22) and Jeff Posey (96) and the rest of the Bills defense celebrate a safety scored by Bills' Pat Williams during the game against the New York Jets at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., Sunday, Nov. 7, 2004. The Bills won, 22-17.

Tank-to-Tank Aquathon on the way

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER

If swimming down at the local pool and running around the state of the art track and field facility in Oleai isn't enough to keep you interested anymore, you may need to revamp your exercise routine, and thanks to the Marianas Tourism Educational Council, you don't even have to figure out how to do it.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, MTEC will be hosting the Tank To Tank Aquathon in association with the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation, the Hyatt Regency Saipan, the Pacific Islands Club, and Tony Romas/Capriciossa.

In the wee hours of Saturday morning, aqua-racers will meet on the beach just south of AJ's Restaurant where they will enter the lagoon and swim the approximate 400 meters out to the partially submerged Sherman Tank and back. From there, they will don their running shoes and head northward to the Japanese Tank at the intersection of Quartermaster Rd. and back to AJ's parking lot.

The aquathon gets underway at 7:30am, and the show time to register for the event is 7am the day of the race. The cost to enter the Tank to Tank is $20 for the solo competitor, and $30 for a team.

For more information about the splash and dash, contact Jon Cramer by calling 235-6231 ext 5148.

Calling all ToC winners

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER

If you were one of the lucky golfers who were able to out strike, chip, and putt the competition in the 2004 Tournament of Champions, the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association (GHRA)is inviting you to compete in the Guam Governor's Tourism Cup Championship on Guam next month.

On Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12, duffers from all over the region will head down to the Starts (Alte) Guam Golf Resort for a weekend of top quality competition. Tee times for either the morning or afternoon will be assigned when the players arrive.

While winners in the 2004 Tournament of Champions have a free slot in the Guam Governor's Tourism Cup tournament, the players are responsible for their own expenses.

Participants going to Guam should note that there are differences in the flight/handicap ratings between the two tournaments, and a possibility remains that a player from the Tournament of Champions in a specific flight might find themselves accepted into the Guam tournament at a higher flight. This might apply to those players having near "Cut Line" handicaps.

Unfortunately, due to the differences in flights be-

See CALLING on Page 27